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FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.  
1300 I STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

In re Application of :  
Joseph C. Cauthen :  
Serial No.: 10/085,040 :  
Filed: March 1, 2002 :  
For: Intervertebral Disc Annulus Stent :

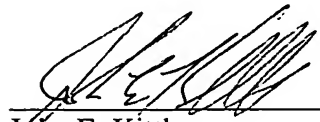
DECISION ON PETITION

This is in response to applicants' petition filed June 26, 2003, to make the above-identified application special under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.102(c), based on the age of the applicant.

Applicant has satisfied the provisions set forth in M.P.E.P. 708.02, IV. Therefore the petition is **GRANTED**.

**The application will be forwarded to the examiner for action on the merits commensurate with this decision.**

Should there be any questions with regard to this letter please contact John Kittle by letter addressed to the Director, Technology Center 3700/2900, Washington, DC 20231, or by telephone at (703) 308-0873 or by facsimile transmission at (703) 308-3139.

  
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John E. Kittle  
Director,  
Technology Center 3700/2900